CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An image framing system comprising:

a camera that produces a camera image, and

a mirror that produces a mirror image,

wherein:

the mirror is operably coupled to the camera such that the mirror image is representative of the camera image so as to facilitate framing an object image in the camera image.

2. The image framing system of claim 1, wherein:

the camera has a first field of view, and

the mirror has a field of reflection that substantially corresponds to the first field of view of at least a portion of the camera image.

3. The image framing system of claim 2, further including

a second camera that has a second field of view that in conjunction with the first field of view forms a stereo field of view, and

wherein the field of reflection also substantially corresponds to the second field of view and the stereo field of view in at least a portion of the camera image.

4. The image framing system of claim 1, wherein:

the mirror has a front surface that is substantially reflective and a rear surface, and

the camera is located behind the rear surface.

5. The image framing system of claim 1, also comprising

an output device having a display area for displaying a second image,

wherein the mirror is located within the display area.

6. The image framing system of claim 1, wherein the mirror has a front surface that is substantially reflective, and the image framing system also includes:

a controllable device that controls a field of reflection that is associated with the mirror.

7. The image framing system of claim 1, further including

a light source that emits light, and

wherein the mirror provides the mirror image in dependence upon the light.

8. The image framing system of claim 1, further including:

a recognition device, operably coupled to the camera, that provides an enable signal in dependence upon the camera image, and,

a processing system, operably coupled to the recognition device, that provides an output in dependence upon the enable signal.

9. The image framing system of claim 1, wherein the image framing system is included in at least one of: a wearable device, a watch, a telephone, a computing device, and an appliance.

10. The image framing system of claim 1, wherein the camera image is communicated to a remote location for subsequent viewing.

11. A video conferencing system comprising:

an image framing system that includes:

a camera that produces a camera image for communication to a remote site, and

a mirror that produces a mirror image that is representative of the camera image to facilitate framing an object image in the camera image; and,

a display system that displays a second image received from the remote site.

12. The video conferencing system of claim 11, wherein

the display system includes a display area for displaying the second image, and

the mirror is located within the display area.

13. The video conferencing system of claim 11, wherein:

the camera has a field of view, and

the mirror has a field of reflection that substantially corresponds to the field of view of the camera of at least a portion of the camera image.

14. The video conferencing system of claim 11, further including:

a transmitter that communicates the camera image to the remote site.

15. An image transmission system comprising:

a camera that produces a camera image,

a mirror, operably coupled to the camera that produces a mirror image that corresponds substantially to the camera image, and

a transmitter, operably coupled to the camera, that transmits the camera image to a remote location.

16. The image transmission system of claim 15, further comprising at least one of: a computing device, a telephone, a PDA, a voice transmitter, a text transmitter, and an e-mail transmitter.

17. The image transmission system of claim 15, wherein the transmitter transmits the camera image via at least one of a telephone system, a cable system, a wireless system, and an Internet system.

18. A method of framing an image of an object within a camera image comprising the steps of:

aligning a mirror so as to provide a mirror image that is representative of the camera image, and

adjusting a position of the object in dependence upon the mirror image and thereby frame the image of the object in the camera image.

19. The method of claim 18, further including the step of:

adjusting a field of reflection of the mirror in dependence upon a field of view associated with the camera image.

20. The method of claim 18, further including the step of transmitting the camera image to a remote location.